

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7942
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 2646

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, SY, LE, IS, UNSC
SUBJ: KHADDAM'S VIEWS ON LEBANON AND UNIFIL ROLE

1. DURING MAY 8 MEETING WITH FONMIN KHADDAM, I DELIVERED
THE SECRETARY'S LETTER EXPRESSING US APPRECIATION FOR
SYRIA'S ASSISTANCE IN FACILITATING AIRLIFT OF SENEGALESE
UNIFIL CONTINGENT. AFTER HE HAD READ IT I ADDED SPECIAL
WORD OF APPRECIATION FOR COOPERATION OF GRIG.
GEN. AL-KHULI AND HIS STAFF AND SAID WE HAD BEEN PLEASED
TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CONDUCT SYRIAN AIR FORCE COMMANDER AND
HIS STAFF ON TOUR OF US AIRCRAFT INVOLVED. KHADDAM
THANKED SECRETARY FOR HIS MESSAGE AND ADDED THAT SYRIA WAS
READY TO EXTEND ANY ASSISTANCE WHICH WOULD CONTRIBUTE
TO IMPLEMENTATION OF UNSC RES. 425.

2. I NOTED THAT THANKS TO PROMPT INTERNATIONAL
ACTION IN INSTALLING UNIFIL FORCES IN LEBANON, ISRAEL
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HAD ALREADY WITHDRAWN FROM SOME SIXTY PERCENT OF THE
TERRITORY IT HAD OCCUPIED. WE HAD MADE CLEAR TO PM
BEGIN DURING HIS LATEST VISIT THAT WE EXPECT ISRAEL TO
FIX A FIRM DATE FOR ITS FINAL WITHDRAWAL. WHEN ASKED
HOW SYRIA VIEWED SITUATION IN SOUTH AND UNIFIL
PERFORMANCE. KHADDAM SAID THAT SYRIA SUPPORTED THE
PRESENCE OF THE UN IN LEBANON AND WISHED TO FACILITATE

ITS TASKS SINCE IT BELIEVED THESE FORCES MUST PLAY A POSITIVE ROLE IN BRINGING ABOUT ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL. IN SYRIAN VIEW, ALL PARTIES SHOULD DEAL WITH UNIFIL IN ORDER TO FACILITATE ITS FUNCTIONS. KHADDAM STRESSED THAT THE IMPORTANT FACT TO BEAR IN MIND WAS THAT THE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL TO DATE HAD NOT COMPLIED WITH UNSC RES 425 SINCE ISRAEL WAS STILL HOLDING IMPORTANT PARTS OF LEBANESE TERRITORY. WHEN I REPEATED THAT US WAS INSISTING ISRAEL SET A FIRM DATE FOR FULL WITHDRAWAL, HE REPLIED "GOOD"

2. TURNING TO INTERNAL LEBANESE SITUATION, KHADDAM SAID SYRIA CONSIDERED LEBANESE PARLIAMENT'S SIX-POINT RESOLUTION AS AN INTERNAL LEBANESE MATTER, ESPECIALLY SINCE IT HAD BEEN MADE CLEAR THESE RESOLUTIONS WOULD NOT MEAN ABROGATING EXISTING LEBANESE-PALESTINIAN ACCORDS. SYRIA, HE SAID, SUPPORTED ANY MOVE WHICH WOULD HELP LEBANON REESTABLISH ITS INSTITUTIONS AND RESTORE A STATE OF NORMALCY. THE DIFFICULTIES IN FORMING A NEW GOVERNMENT WERE NOT A CAUSE FOR CONCERN, KHADDAM ASSERTED. THEY WERE THE NATURAL RESULT OF THE PREVAILING POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES IN LEBANON.

3. COMMENT: THE IMPLICATION OF KHADDAM'S WORDS IS THAT SYRIA IS PLEASED WITH UNIFIL'S PERFORMANCE AND IS READY TO ASSIST UP TO A POINT IN ACTIONS WHICH WOULD
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LEAD TO FULL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL. WHILE SUCH ACTIONS APPEAR TO INCLUDE ENCOURAGING PLO TO COOPERATE WITH UNIFIL, IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT SYRIA WOULD AGREE TO ANY NEW ADF EFFORTS TO CONTROL ARMED PALESTINIAN ELEMENTS IN AREAS NORTH OF LITANI OR THEIR MOVEMENT SOUTH.
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